



## City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Affairs Program

### *2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA PRIORITIES*

The City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Affairs program addresses legislative initiatives at the county, state, and federal levels which follow an annual cycle of development, captured on the attached legislative calendar. The program mission is to develop and advocate for the Flagstaff community by fostering and maintaining relationships with individuals and entities that affect the City's interests. As a member of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, the City of Flagstaff has helped develop and has signed onto the slate of League resolutions (attached) in support of common legislative efforts benefitting Arizona cities. Council adoption of the League resolutions, our identified priorities and guiding principles authorizes staff or City representatives to take positions generally consistent with our legislative priorities.

The attached Guiding Principles of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns is part of our legislative agenda. Additionally, the following objectives strengthen local government, promote City goals and defend the City against legislative actions by the State or Federal governments that would weaken our authority or take away traditional revenue sources. These are presented as part of the 2014 Legislative Agenda for the City of Flagstaff.

#### *Guiding Principles*

- Local Control: Protect local revenues and local authority, which reflect core principles for local government. Flagstaff believes local government best represents local communities in the areas of regulatory, finance, and administrative decision-making. This representation requires opposing any unfunded mandates at the Federal and State levels
- Regional Communication & Partnerships: the County has a direct impact upon the quality of life in Flagstaff and it is essential that the City maintain positive relations and direct communications with our County partner to promote mutual legislative actions. This can be accomplished formally through participation in joint meetings with the County as well as The Alliance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century whose membership includes Coconino Community College (CCC), Coconino County, the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD), and Northern Arizona University (NAU). Periodic meetings with Hopi and Navajo tribes are also beneficial for partnership on matters of mutual concern as well as membership in Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) to be involved in planning of our regional transportation and the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG).
- Council Goals: Advancing or defending goals of the City Council and adopted legislative priorities in effect during the 2014 legislative session does not require additional Council action.

### *State*

- STATE SHARED REVENUES: Protect state shared revenue to municipalities as a revenue percentage and a revenue source.
  - HURF RESTORATION: Full lobbying support of League Resolution #11 to stop future sweeps of HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds) dollars and actions that restoring 2008 levels of funding as well as allocate new dollars to transportation.
  - ADOT ROW USE: Obtain state permission (AZ Dept. of Transportation) to place a water pipeline in the I-40 right-of-way from Red Gap Ranch to Flagstaff, including US Forest Service land.
  - FOREST HEALTH: Support any state efforts designed to reduce forest fire dangers in the region, encouraging state investment opportunities to treat areas in and around cities.
  - PENSION REFORM: In coordination with the League of AZ Cities and Towns, support efforts studying or implementing pension reforms which obtain greater flexibility to manage pension plans affecting municipal employees.
  - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS: Retain and enhance economic development tools that enable cities to compete on a national and international level for business retention and attraction that further the economic viability of Flagstaff and greater Northern Arizona.
  - SALES TAX SYSTEMS INTEGRATION: Support legislative actions as needed to assist in the AZ Department of Revenue (ADOR) integration of our sales tax systems in time for the January 1, 2015 deadline.
  - ENERGY DISTRICTS: Seek enabling legislation for 'Energy Districts' that provides flexible financing authority for commercial entities via finance mechanisms for upfront investment capital in energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to properties.
  - BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL AMENDMENT: Amend ARS Statute 32-144, A (4) by adding an exception to allow non-registrants to design non-bearing walls in a tenant improvement (Note: This limitation does not apply to non-bearing walls in tenant improvements in existing buildings for assemblies, businesses, or mercantile type occupancies.)
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- **Council proposed last year:** Seek assistance from ADOT and the state on getting an economic impact study of the proposed I-11 Corridor on northern Arizona cities east of the proposed route.
  - **Council proposed last year:** Support efforts for the establishment of a VA Home in Bellemont and the financial support needed from the State as matching funds to the federal allocation for the home.

### *Federal*

- Rio de Flag Flood Control Project – Complete the Limited Re-evaluation Report and obtain necessary approvals from the Assistant Secretary of the Army so as to be included in any USACE work plan or report to Congress as an authorized project.
  - Water Resources Development Reauthorization – Protect language in House and Senate bills that allow for self-administration pilot projects

- Transportation – Secure authorization and fiscal resources for the Regional Transportation Plan priorities including Lone Tree Interchange and the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over I-40.
- Forest Health – Leverage voter approved bonds for forest restoration with federal dollars to maximize acreage to be treated and ensure that resources and funding continue to flow to important regional projects such as 4FRI and ERI.
- Water – Secure easement rights for required water transmission line located within Interstate 40 right-of-way or other Council-approved route.
- FAA (Airport) –
  - Resurface & Restripe Runway which has aged excessively; funding request FY 2015, \$3.3M
  - Construct non-revenue multi-level parking structure to increase passenger parking capacity at the airport terminal; funding request FY 2016 \$4M and FY 2017 \$4M for a total estimated project cost of \$8M.
  - Purchase 167.89 acres of Airport land, which contains Runway Protection Zone, Avigation Easement, Lake Mary Park land and the Water Treatment Plant; funding request FY 2018 in the amount of \$6.7M
- FEMA - Schultz Flooding Inner Basin Pipeline - Timber Retaining Wall appeal letter (to be sent) for \$124,443, the amount declined by ADEM (AZ Dept. of Environmental Management)

### ***Further Collaboration***

Support regional, state and federal partnerships that may advance applicable legislation in support of the City of Flagstaff.

<b>Regional</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>National</b>
Coconino County	League of Arizona Cities and Towns	National League of Cities and Towns
Flagstaff Unified School District	Coconino Community College	Conference of Mayors
Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG)	Northern Arizona University	US Forest Service
Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA)	AZ Game and Fish	US Parks Service
Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA)	Arizona State Land Department	Hopi Tribal Nation
Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council	State Forestry – State Forest Health Council	Navajo Tribal Nation
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Greater Arizona Mayors' Association (GAMA)	
Chamber of Commerce		Additional Federal Agencies